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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/172,435	10/14/1998	OCTAVIUS J. MORRIS	PHB-34.200	9272

7590

04/10/2002

CORPORATE PATENT COUNSEL  
U S PHILIPS CORPORATION  
580 WHITE PLAINS ROAD  
TARRYTOWN, NY 10591

EXAMINER

CHIEU, PO LIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/172,435	Applicant(s) MORRIS ET AL.	
	Examiner Polin Chieu	Art Unit 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. The applicants arguments are directed towards the amended subject matter, which is considered to be anticipated by the prior art.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamura et al (5,621,840).

Regarding claims 1 and 13-15, Kawamura et al discloses a MPEG recording/reproducing device that records data blocks (col. 8, lines 10-17) and outputs data blocks to produce a sequence of video images in figures 17 and 18. Kawamura et al discloses that MPEG coding codes data in I, P, and B frames; and I frames are coded without reference to other frames; and P and B frames coded in reference to other frames (col. 3, lines 1-12). Additionally, it is inherent that each frame (or image sequence) is coded into a plurality of blocks (or macroblocks) in MPEG format. Kawamura et al also discloses inserting additional data blocks into the stream, each of the additional blocks carrying data identifying the relative location of the first or only data block of an I frame (col. 7, lines 26-37).

Regarding claim 3, Kawamura et al teaches that each additional data block identifies the first or only data block in the data block stream of the closest previously formatted I frame in figure 13.

Regarding claim 4, Kawamura et al disclose storing data identifying the length of the closest previously formatted I frame in figure 19.

Regarding claim 5, Kawamura et al discloses that the images are encoded in accordance with MPEG standard (col. 12, line 13) and all data block are of a common size (col. 8, lines 10-17).

Regarding claims 6 and 16-18, Kawamura et al discloses a storage device (10) capable of being sequentially read and carrying an encoded (1) sequence of video images in figure 17. As discussed previously in the art rejection of claim 1, Kawamura et al discloses images coded without reference to any other images (I frames); images coded with reference to other images (P and B frames); the images formatted into a sequence of data blocks, with additional data identifying the storage location of the first or only data block of an I frame (figure 19); and at least one image of the sequence formatted into a plurality of data blocks (or macroblocks).

The limitations of claim 7 where discussed in the art rejection of claim 5. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 5.

Regarding claim 8, Kawamura et al discloses additional data identifying the storage location of the first or only data block of the closest previously formatted I frame in figure 19.

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Regarding claim 9, Kawamura et al discloses carrying at respectively separate storage locations auxiliary data associated with respective encoded image frames and each of the additional data block further carries data identifying storage location of the auxiliary data associated with the particularly indicated I frame (col. 11, lines 47-52).

Regarding claim 10, Kawamura et al discloses that recording medium (DSM) may be an optical disc (col. 1, lines 30-35), wherein the additional data blocks identify the location of the first or only data block of the closest preceding I frame in terms of location on the disc (figure 19).

Regarding claims 11 and 19-21, as discussed previously Kawamura et al discloses encoding successive images using a predetermined coding scheme, wherein some of the frames are intra-coded (I frames), and the remainder are coded with reference to other frames (P and B frames). Kawamura also disclosed formatting the data into one or a sequence of data blocks; being operable to identify I frames (31), inserting additional data blocks (36) carrying data identifying the location of the first or only data block of an I frame (figure 19); and including formatting at least one image of the sequence into a plurality of data blocks (or macroblocks).

Regarding claim 12, Kawamura et al discloses a player with a decoder (25) decoding and outputting a sequence of video frames, the player operable in a fast forward or fast reverse mode (col. 1, lines 1-17), the player comprising a means for selecting frames by selecting every Nth data block and displaying the I frame (col. 13, line 40 to col. 14, line 10).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura et al.

Regarding claim 2, Kawamura et al does not disclose that a single additional data block is inserted at fixed periodically repeated intervals.

Kawamura et al teaches in the prior art that a fixed rate of compression results in the I frames occurring at predetermined positions (col. 3, lines 13-23). Therefore, if the compression rate was fixed then additional data block would be inserted at fixed periodically repeated intervals.

It would have been highly desirable to have additional data blocks in the fixed compression rates so that the position of the I frame does not have to be calculated (col. 3, lines 12-23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have entry points in a fixed compression signal in the device of Kawamura et al.

6. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura et al in view of Jain (5,249,053).

Regarding claim 22, Kawamura et al does not disclose encoding at a variable compression rate.

Jain teaches encoding with a variable compression rate (col. 5, lines 53-59).

It would have been highly desirable to have variable compression rate so that the compression rate could be adjusted to provide the maximum compression rate while an acceptable image quality is met (col. 6, lines 7-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a variable compression rate in the device of Kawamura et al.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Polin Chieu whose telephone number is (703) 308-6070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM-6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B. Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



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PC

April 5, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew B. Christensen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**ANDREW B. CHRISTENSEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**